THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d) In the wake of terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir, around 2.5 lakh persons are estimated to have migrated to different parts of the country. Most of the migrants are staying in Jammu & Delhi where camps have also been established for them. Permanent rehabilitation of these migrants is not contemplated. However, in order to take care of their basic needs, they are being provided relief and other facilities. It is hoped that they will be able to return to the Valley with improvement in the situation there, for which sustained efforts are being made.

Commission of Inquiry to look into Sopore Incident

1157. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Commission of Inquiry set up to look into the Sopore incident of January 6, 1993 is required to submit its report within three months;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its report; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay the Commission's report before Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The inquiry is still in progress. Since it could not be completed within three months, the State Government has extended the period for completion of the same. On completion of the inquiry, further action will be taken according to provisions of Jammu & Kashmir Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1962 (Act No. XXXII of 1962), under which the Commission was constituted.

Mercenaries operating as terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir

1158. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Afghan, Sudan and other mercenaries, operating as terrorists and detected in the State of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) what action has been taken by Government to ensure that foreign mercenaries do not swell the ranks of the Kashmir terrorists and aggravate the situation in the State;

(c) whether it is a fact that a serious clash took place between the Border Security Force and about 200 Afghan mercenaries at Ashudhar in Doda district on June 26th/28th in which the former suffered substantial casualties; and

(d) if so, what are the details of the incident and what weapons were used by the mercenaries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (d) Government are aware of reports of the presence of some foreign nationals said to be involved in subversive activities alongwith the terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir. However, it is not possible to precisely estimate the number and nationalities of such persons, who have infiltrated into the State.

Sustained pressure is being maintained on the militants within the State, and vigil has been further intensified and stepped up on the LOC and the Border to prevent infiltration of terrorists, including foreign nationals, into the State.

An encounter took place between the militants and BSF personnel at Ashudhar Dessa in Doda District of J&K on 26th June, 1993. The BSF patrol party had gone for combing operations on a tip-off about the presence of militants in the Dessa area. On reaching there, they were fired upon by the militants. Reportedly, the number of militants was about 130/150 and a few among them, from their appearance and physical structure, appeared to be foreign nationals.

10 BSF personnel were killed and 7 others including 2 JKAP men were injured in this encounter. There were reports that 3 militants were also killed but this fact could not be verified as their bodies were taken away by the militants from the spot. The militants are reported to have used UMGs, Rocket Launchers, AK Series Rifles and Grenades in the counter.

Militancy in Terai region

1159. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether following near normalcy returning to Punjab, the Punjab militants have lately diversified their activities to other areas like